

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT EDG-A-00-02-00030-00
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

WORK PLAN
1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2006

INTRODUCTION

This work plan was drawn up following the extension granted to the joint IIHR/CEJIL project in order to meet the final goal of providing psychological support to torture victims in 17 cases brought before the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System.

The specialized section of the website was created under this project. Hitherto, it has been used exclusively by the network-team for training purposes and to provide access to the theoretical-conceptual tools available. However, as the public will have access to the specialized section in 2006, the work related to the section in general, and the directory of organizations in particular, will be included in the work plan of the amendment.

Besides the cases included in the project, a number of other major activities will be implemented this year. These include the editing and printing of at least two publications, the presentation of a final report to the bodies of the Inter-American System and the final design of the methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims, developed over the course of the project.

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PROJECT: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

WORK PLAN FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 2006

FINAL GOAL: To provide psychological support to torture victims with cases in the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: More and better-quality comprehensive psychological support is being provided to torture victims or relatives with cases in the Inter-American System

Annual Goal 1: To consolidate, apply and disseminate a methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims whose cases are being considered by the bodies of the Inter-American System							
ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Comprehensive Psychological Support for Victims of Torture or their Relatives Objective: To provide coordinated and systematic psychological support to victims or their relatives before and during the hearings of the protection bodies of the Inter-American System, through the network-team of specialist professionals	The comprehensive psychological support provided before and during the hearings of the protection bodies will be based on the methodology designed during 2003 and enhanced in 2004. To evaluate the quality of the support, the victims will complete a survey (provided they are able to do so) and the specialists will present reports of the work done on each case (they will be given guidelines for preparing the reports). To provide the psychological support to the victims of torture	Each psychologist will assist the victim or his/her relatives in at least 6 torture cases, before and during the hearings. Fifty hours of support will be provided in each case (which may include support for the victim and his/her relatives, the relatives only or the victim only). It is impossible to determine how these hours will be distributed in advance, as it will depend on the specific characteristics of each case. The psychological support should cover both the preparatory process and the hearings, and encompass four key aspects: support for the victims, coordination with the	The comprehensive psychological support for torture victims and their relatives began in 2003, when three cases were handled by the project. Support was provided in a further four cases in 2004 and five in 2005. Throughout the project, the network-team of specialist professionals has used and improved the proposed methodology for providing comprehensive support to victims in the Inter-American System. The network-team has theoretical and methodological tools at its disposal for providing the comprehensive psychological support, available in the specialized section.	To determine which specialist will deal with each case, the IIHR and CEJIL together will choose the person who best matches the profile of the victim in terms of geographic closeness to his/her place of residence, the languages he/she speaks and the area of psychological expertise required. The psychological support and the preparation of the reports and presentation of the expert evidence to the protection bodies will be handled by the members of the network-team of specialist professionals assigned to each case. The IIHR will provide them with guidelines for preparing reports and the psychological support methodology. The IIHR will coordinate	Assign a specialist to each case Provide comprehensive psychological support to torture victims or their relatives Prepare and present oral and written expert evidence Prepare reports on the process of providing support in each case for the IIHR Coordinate the work of the specialists and CEJIL's lawyers Strategy for coordinating the activities of the network-team	At least six cases involving torture victims or their relatives processed using the comprehensive psychological support methodology Expert reports prepared by the specialists for presentation in the hearings The Inter-American Court and Commission are dealing with cases related to the project in their sessions Specialists' reports on the support provided in each case	Improvement in the quality of the psychological support provided to torture victims granted hearings by the bodies of the Inter-American System Victims more aware of the importance of presenting their case before the Inter-American System More and better documentation on practices for supporting victims of torture More contributions to the comprehensive psychological

<p>whose cases are included in the project, the staff will liaise with the network-team of specialist professionals to ensure that the comprehensive psychological support efforts are carefully coordinated. They will encourage the members of the network-team to share information and cooperate with each other. The staff will communicate with the network-team via e-mail and, if necessary, by phone. In addition to the psychological support provided to victims, in 2006 the coordination efforts will focus on helping to prepare the final outputs. These include a book describing out the doctrinal underpinnings for torture cases, the effects of torture and reparations in legal contexts; a final publication detailing the experience acquired by the project; and the guide to the psychological support process.</p>	<p>lawyers, the preparation of reports and the substantiation of the expert (oral and/or written) testimony. The aim will also be to raise awareness of the importance of victims presenting their cases to the bodies of the Inter-American System. The project will adopt a flexible method of psychological support, tailored to the needs of each case, and use different strategies to assign specialists to provide expert evidence and psychological support.</p>	<p>One of the main lessons learned in implementing the project is that a flexible system is required to assign specialists in accordance with the particular needs of each case, to ensure that the support the victims receive is of the highest caliber and the right legal strategy is adopted for influencing the protection bodies. The network-team of the project was created in 2003 and consolidated in 2004 by means of the specialized section (used exclusively by the team) and constant communication via email.</p>	<p>the network-team, with the collaboration of, and input from, CEJIL.</p>	<p>Communication and information sharing among members of the network-team</p>		<p>support methodology</p> <p>The network-team is more knowledgeable about the comprehensive psychological support methodology</p>
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ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Training and support for the CEJIL team Objective: To ensure that CEJIL staff have professional guidance on how to handle cases involving torture victims	Following the evaluations carried out in 2005, the project will focus further on specific aspects of the legal assistance provided to torture victims and the efforts to secure psychosocial reparations. An on-site training body will be set up. The project will publish (in English, Spanish and Portuguese) international documents on the subject (conventions, protocols and recommendations) specifically to disseminate international standards for effectively investigating and documenting torture. These will be made available to the lawyers and psychologists taking part in the project and to others who are not. Further materials will be produced to disseminate the experience. They will be made available to the lawyers trained and to others who were	A meeting will be held to prepare the training during the hearings in March 2006. The on-site training with the CEJIL team will take place in July 2006. The plan is to produce a publication on the training experience. Another publication will be produced containing international documents on the subject. This publication will be distributed among the organizations listed in the directory and others that express interest. Information about its existence will be disseminated via CEJIL's website and the specialized section of the IIHR.	This activity will ensure that the CEJIL team: a) has a better grasp of the psychological impact of torture on the victims, b) is better prepared to handle the relationship with the victims and their relatives, and c) incorporates the issue of the psychological impact on torture victims at the institutional level. Torture victims will benefit from the training that CEJIL receives: both the training and the individual psychological guidance for the litigating attorneys will ensure that the victims receive more support and are better prepared for the litigation process. The materials produced will make it possible to disseminate the pilot experience widely, thereby having an impact on other professionals, activists and organizations not directly involved in the project.	CEJIL will handle all the logistical matters involved in the activity	Provide follow-up to the training process Prepare dissemination materials Disseminate information about the advice available from psychologists among the CEJIL team Prepare training	CEJIL team of litigating lawyers trained Publication on the training experience Publication on international standards for investigating and documenting torture Guidelines for lawyers on how to provide support to torture victims	CEJIL team better equipped to handle the psychological aspects of torture cases Legal team better able to provide comprehensive support to torture victims More general knowledge on the international standards for investigating and documenting torture

	not. The project will also continue to facilitate access to psychologists whom the lawyers can consult during the litigation of cases and from whom they can obtain personal guidance on how to handle cases.						
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ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE/ COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Litigation of torture cases in the Inter-American System Objective: To make progress with the processing of torture cases by the protection bodies	With the consent of the victims or their relatives, the team will request a hearing at the appropriate time. If the protection body grants one, the team will prepare the case they will present to the Inter-American Court or Commission, as appropriate. The criteria for selecting the cases	Throughout 2006, the staff will study and endeavor to document torture cases that could be included in the project. The project anticipates enough cases will be processed in 2006 for it to achieve its final goal. The team receives little advance warning as regards the cases the protection bodies intend to consider. It is an	Presenting information about the impact of torture on the victims in the Inter-American System will highlight the complexity of the issue and encourage the protection bodies to develop adequate solutions.	CEJIL is in charge of litigating the cases supported by the project before the Inter-American Commission and Court. CEJIL informs the IHR of the cases selected and together the two institutions assign the psychologists to each case and determine the legal strategy to be followed.	Study cases for possible inclusion Select at least six cases Make visits to document cases Request hearings before the Inter-American Commission Prepare hearings before the Inter-	Report on visits to document cases Progress with the legal formalities in at least six torture cases brought before the Inter-American Commission and Court, during which the victims or their relatives received psychological support	Progress with the torture cases being processed by the bodies of the Inter-American System The bodies of the Inter-American System are devoting more time and attention to the issue

	<p>are: cases that involve violations of the victim's physical or psychic integrity, under Article 5 of the American Convention or the similar provisions of specific protection instruments; cases that have reached an advanced stage within the system - i.e., the substance or merits of a case brought before the protection bodies is/are being discussed. Completion of the procedural formalities depends on the protection bodies, not CEJIL, which can only petition them to take action. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has to agree to grant a hearing, while the Court has to announce the date for hearing the case. CEJIL will focus on leading cases, i.e., innovative cases involving specific issues that the protection bodies have not yet addressed in their jurisprudence, such as the relationship between sexual violence and torture.</p>	<p>internal matter for the protection bodies themselves to decide. To achieve this result it will be necessary to conduct missions to the country of origin/residence of the victims and their relatives, to prepare and document the cases about which reports will be submitted. CEJIL will maintain direct contact with the victims or their relatives. The exact destinations of the missions will depend on the status of the cases and violations of which the team becomes aware. The staff will also coordinate closely with the psychologist in charge of each case. The Inter-American Commission usually meets twice a year, in February and October. The Inter-American Court meets at least three times a year, with the dates for the next period of sessions being set at the end of the preceding one. This means that it is impossible to know with certainty the dates and the issues that the Court intends to address.</p>			<p>American Court and Commission</p> <p>Assign a psychologist to the case and then coordinate the work with him/her</p> <p>Lawyers take part in hearings</p>	<p>Hearings for torture cases granted by the protection bodies</p>	
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Annual Goal 2: To influence the development of the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the recommendations or resolutions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with regard to psychosocial reparations in torture cases

ACTIVITY	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE AND COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Sensitization of the Inter-American System Objective: To improve the measures ordered by the protection bodies of the Inter-American System to help victims overcome the psychological impact of torture	Formal and informal meetings will continue to be held with the protection bodies. A final report will be prepared and presented to the protection bodies on the implementation of the project and its achievements, and the challenges facing the Inter-American System with regard to torture victims	Formal meetings will take place during the hearings of the Inter-American Commission slated for March 2006, in Washington. At the end of the project, a meeting will be requested with the members of both the Inter-American Court and Commission, to present the final outputs: the publications and the specialized section of the website. The final report for the protection bodies will be prepared in October 2006 and include the inputs developed since the start of the project. It will be presented to the Inter-American Court at the next period of session that is held, together with the final outputs. The meeting will be requested well in advance so the protection bodies can include it in their schedule.	Sensitizing the Inter-American System to torture and its effects on its victims was viewed as necessary from the outset of the project, and the work carried out since then has produced positive results. This process will continue during 2006 with the members of the Inter-American Court and the Commission, focusing on the need to prioritize hearings for the cases promoted by the project and to order comprehensive psychosocial reparations in the respective resolutions/judgments. This will contribute to the development of jurisprudence and thereby produce greater benefits for the victims, their relatives and society as a whole.	Both the IIHR and CEJIL, in line with the coordination strategy agreed on, will coordinate the actions needed to implement these activities. They will circulate the information available on the progress of the project and promote informal meetings with representatives of the Inter-American Commission and Court. Advantage will be taken of the project coordinator's two visits to the Inter-American Commission in Washington to meet with the USAID officials in charge of the project.	Prepare final report Coordinate and hold informal meetings with representatives of the Inter-American Commission and Court Circulate information between the IIHR and CEJIL Request formal meeting with members of the Inter-American Court and Commission to present final outputs	Meetings with representatives of the Inter-American Commission and Court Members of the protection bodies sensitized to the issues addressed by the project Final report on the implementation of the project	Progress in sensitizing the two bodies to the psychological impact of torture Psychosocial reparations for victims or their relatives incorporated into the recommendations/judgments of the bodies of the Inter-American System

ACTIVITIES	METHOD	DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE	INSTITUTION(S) RESPONSIBLE AND COORDINATION	INTERMEDIATE STEPS	EXPECTED RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
Dissemination of information about the Project Objective: To afford greater access to information about torture and its psychological impact on its victims or their relatives, and about psychological support, especially with regard to the Inter-American System	All the materials produced will be edited before publication. They will then be distributed among the protection bodies and stakeholders in different countries of the hemisphere, if necessary by airmail. The project will step up distribution of the specialized Gaceta on torture and the information available on the CEJIL website will be updated continually. The project will endeavor to reach professionals who are not aware of the specific issues addressed by the project. To do so, it will identify other organizations and people who may be interested in the subject. They will be included in the distribution of materials.	The outputs to be disseminated will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book containing systematization of the experience acquired by the project. Produced by the IIHR and CEJIL, it will contain the project's most important findings. • Book containing psychological contributions to the Inter-American System. This will be produced by the project's network-team. • Guide to psychological support for torture victims in legal contexts. It will present the methodology created by the project for providing psychological support to torture victims in the Inter-American System. • Thematic file. A specific section devoted to the subject will be created within CEJIL's website, to facilitate access to information 	The aim of these final outputs is to disseminate the experience acquired by the project throughout its execution, and the progress made in combating torture and supporting its victims. The objective is also to disseminate knowledge about aspects of the methodology for providing psychological support in the Inter-American system, and the coordination of the psychological and legal perspectives. The aim is to publicize the work done by the project so that other users of the system can replicate the experience and more victims and their defenders are familiar with the project's outputs. One of the aspects confirmed by CEJIL in 2004 was the limited information available about the project's subject matter. The aim is to make the work carried out as visible as possible and facilitate defenders' access to information on this specific issue. Designing a	The IIHR and CEJIL will implement actions aimed at disseminating information about the project beyond the bodies of the System and the network-team. The IIHR and CEJIL will prepare the project's final publication. The IIHR will be responsible for the publication on psychological contributions to the Inter-American System. The IIHR and CEJIL will agree on the final version of the comprehensive psychological support methodology. The IIHR and CEJIL will coordinate actions in order to link the information available on their respective websites.	Design a specific section dealing with the project's subject matter on CEJIL's website Prepare and edit the publications. Publish the materials Distribute the printed materials. Complete, edit and publish final design of the guide on how to provide psychological torture support to victims	Disseminate the following outputs: - Book containing systematization of the project - Book containing theoretical-conceptual contributions - Guide to the process of providing psychological support to torture victims - Thematic file on torture posted on CEJIL's website - Gaceta on torture posted on CEJIL's website - Dissemination and sensitization materials Guide to the process of providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims	More people informed about the psychological impact of torture and psychological support methodologies Stakeholders have more access to the theoretical and methodological tools produced by the network-team (guide and publications)

		<p>about the work of the project.</p> <p>The guide to the process of providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims includes the final design of the methodology created by the project. The staff worked on it in 2004 and 2005, incorporating the psychological approach promoted by the project and the inputs provided by CEJIL's legal team. In 2006, it will be published and disseminated widely. The materials will be distributed among the centers and people listed in the directory of the specialized section, and the organizations to which the members of the network-team of specialists belong. The printed material will also be distributed more widely. The project will endeavor to reach nontraditional sectors within the human rights field whose work is closely connected with that of the project (e.g., organizations of psychologists, universities).</p>	<p>methodology for providing comprehensive psychological support to torture victims in the Inter-American System was viewed as necessary from the outset of the project. At the team's meeting in 2003, general strategic lines were established for implementing the methodology and preliminary guidelines were drafted for presenting reports and expert testimony. During 2004, this preliminary methodological design was enhanced with the inputs generated by the network-team through the specialized section and the mailing list, and the work of preparing the manual got under way. In 2005, it was further enhanced with the contributions made at the meeting of the network-team in March and with input received during the production of the specialized articles.</p>				
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SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 2006

PROJECT: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Activities carried out by the IIHR												
Electronic communication with network-team												
Comprehensive psychological support for torture victims or their relatives												
Meetings with psychological specialists and lawyers												
Studying of psychological reports presented by specialists												
Preparation of final report to Inter-American System (IAS)												
Meeting with protection bodies to present final report and publications												
Final design of Manual on the process of providing psychological support												
Publication of Manual												
Production of book on psychological contributions to the IAS												
Publication of book on psychological contributions to the IAS												
Design of final publication of the project												
Production and printing of final publication of the project												
Dissemination of publications												
Meetings with representatives of the bodies (Washington, USA)												

Activities carried out by CEJIL												
Coordination of the supply of psychological support for the team												
Preparation of visits to the region												
Implementation of visits to the region												
Preparation of reports on visits												
Studying of cases with for which hearings could be requested												
Preparation and presentation of petitions for hearings before the Commission												
Follow-up to petitions for hearings												
Identification of specialist to provide support and prepare written expert testimony												
Preparation of hearings granted												
Participation in hearings												
Informal meetings with representatives of the Commission and the Court (Washington, USA)												
Follow-up to training of CEJIL team: preparation of 2006 training and materials												
Adjustments to the Institute's website												
Preparation and publication of materials												